

Alice Deal Middle School LSAT  
September 1 2023 @ 730a, by zoom  
Minutes taken by Josh Hertzberg, Liz Stuart

Attendees:

Principal Diedre Neal

Parents:

Michael Dannenberg

Josh Hertzberg

Elizabeth Stuart (chair)

April York

Amanda Provost (ADCA)

Faculty/staff representatives:

Adam Kirschenbaum

Patricia Balestra

Britney Cuffee

Ebonee Dillard

Stacey Gathers

Sandi Baer

Patrick Rottman

Raymond Cummings

Meeting called to order at 7:32am

I. Welcome and introductions

II. Principal's Report (Principal Neal)

- Start of the school year updates

- Teachers
  - Down a music teacher due to late resignation
  - Science teacher (7th) hasn't returned; currently filled by long term sub
  - Math teacher making way through HR process
  - Other than that, teachers in every classroom
  - Q (Dannenberg): for Chinese, why is there a 30 student class? A: Co-teaching currently but going to make some changes soon to balance them
  - Q (Dannenberg): have you looked at the research on having on big co-taught class vs. two smaller classes? A: classes are being rebalanced.
  - Q (Dannenberg) what is the target size? A: what we can do.
- Structure for 1500, but currently at 1400 so not many classes over 25 students
- Partnering with Relay for teacher professional development
- Starting BOY testing 9/11
- Approaches for identifying students for ELA enrichment will use PARCC and iReady

- Q (Stuart) about math strategies being implemented? A (Neal): with additional budgeting, 3 full coaches to support teachers with instruction. Also, switched math planning from grade-level to content-level. Have funds to support a fall iReady sprint based on BOY scores. Multi-lingual learners will get high impact tutoring through FEV (2x 45-min sessions per week).
- Reading (Ms. Baer): Partnering with DCPS central for tutoring on reading supports for students 2+ below grade level
- 6th grade family workshop (virtual) to extend orientation
- 9/13 in person open house - back to school night (no students unless stay with families)
- Q (Dannenberg) when do parents get PARCC scores? A (Neal) when Deal gets paper copies they will then send them out; usually about a 3-week lag, also need to get incoming 6th grader from their elementary
- Q (Dannenberg) request for data from summer SMAC & SMILE math program to report out on impact of funds raised A: will do at next LSAT meeting; success rate for SMILE will be based on BOY data

- PARCC results

- Nice progress and overall good trends in scores, with increasing % of kids scoring 4's and 5's
- Some kids still needing additional supports, especially certain subgroups
- Plan to present some of this (high level) at October ADCA meeting.

- Lunchtime non-teacher staffing challenges [from Mr. Donaldson]

- Historically, group of non-teachers with kids at lunch for safety (APs, Deans, counselors, social workers, social justice coordinators)
- DCPS initiative called "Becoming" for social-emotional development at arrival (?) and lunch
- Counselors and social workers will no longer be in that space due to contract requirements
- Hard to backfill because not a lot of non-instructional staff in the school
- Call for volunteers for lunch (with admin premium) to cover lunch
- Requested additional security
- Not likely to get additional support from DCPS
- Down 2 adults
- This is likely a Deal-only problem given the structure of a large school and with relatively few non-instructional staff
- One option: using a mentor program (DCPS cleared, Deal trained) - **any takers to find volunteers to do that?** Looking for consistency and ability to handle 500 middle school kids

- Technology policies, Yondr bags

- Message re: "you can't have your phone on you" even
- Q (Dannenberg): are Yondr bags a Deal initiative or DCPS? A (Neal): DCPS requires personal technology not be available to students during the day but doesn't specify

school implementation; some schools use staff members, Banneker uses an app, three other DCPS schools use a locker system. Those alternatives tend to take a lot of staff and student time and are of varying effectiveness.

### III. Comprehensive School Plan

#### - DCPS feedback

- Instructional superintendent meeting next Friday; no big changes to discuss today
- (Stuart): request to share any changes to CSP so that LSAT can see any prior to CSP deadline for submission
- (Dannenberg): How should we send feedback on CSP?
  - Q on Relay / PD - any teacher evaluation of Relay?
    - A (Neal) - Relay has a survey, will check if they can share that info with us
  - (Dannenberg): what is the participation rate on Saturday ZAP in the past?
    - A (Neal) - prior to pandemic ~15-20 students; mainly 7th / 8th graders, sometimes just kids who wanted to hang out. Very different for kids who are over-scheduled vs. under-scheduled; data on rates not available
  - Q on community project - listed as just "focus students" - shouldn't that be "all students"?
    - A (Neal): we want all students to do it, but well-supported students don't have a problem getting through it; the focus students need additional support. Will consider changes to language in CSP to clarify that it is still expected for all students, but with additional focus given to "focus" students to help them complete it.
  - (Dannenberg) Kudos on PARCC score growth, but how do goals in CSP match with new higher scores? For example, should we stretch goals higher where we're already meeting them based on recent PARCC data?
    - A (Neal): will retarget based on discussion with instructional superintendent

#### - Supports for off-team teachers [from Mr. Donaldson]

- Issue is that off-team teachers don't get support (aides, parent meetings, information) to support off-team teachers helping meet the goals. Need to include off-team teachers in the strategies if they are going to be held accountable.
- Ms. Neal: will work with APs if there are holes; only 3 students with dedicated aides
- Teachers (especially off-team teachers) don't know what's going on - if aides stop showing up they don't know if that's because they aren't needed any more or because they should be there but aren't.
- Problem with 504s not getting to where they need to go - Ms. Neal will address; should have all been sent out on Wednesday
- Request for teachers to speak up ASAP with issues like this.

#### - Other comments/Finalizing

- Discussion of PARCC scores / OSSE numbers

- Questions on Blue ribbon nomination? Deal would be eligible next for recognition next year, based on growth from last year to this coming year's scores
- April York raised idea of Deal also looking into green ribbon schools for environment, sustainability

#### IV. Reports

##### a. W3EdNet Report (Liz)

- First meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 12 at 7pm via Zoom. You can [register for the meeting using this link](#). Will be a general meeting, hearing about priorities and challenges for this year, especially any maintenance, staffing, or other resource issues. Any topics for consideration for future meetings?
- Future meetings, all at 7pm: October 17, November 14, December 5, January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11.

##### b. ADCA Report (Amanda)

- Missed due to time constraints.

##### c. WTU Report (Mr. Donaldson - sent via email)

##### d. SIT update (Josh)

- Missed due to time constraints

##### e. Student behavior management committee (Mr. Donaldson - sent via email)

#### V. New/Other business

- Meeting format - will consider hybrid format for parents and teachers next time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 am.

Next meeting: Friday October 6, 7:30am

#### Future items:

- Blue Ribbon designation, or Green Ribbon
- Green Ribbon school designation (April York):  
<https://osse.dc.gov/publication/us-department-education-green-ribbon-school-applications-and-honorees>
- Review/evaluation of this year's summer programming
- Academic enrichment plans for this academic year and setting the stage for next summer